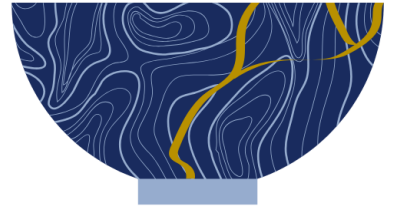


Sow Good News



“We have this treasure in clay jars.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Nancy Bair, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

Maybe it's as simple as this: it's time for humankind to fall in love with the Earth.

~ from “Fall in Love with the Earth”

~ **GATHERING** ~

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*2 Corinthians 5*)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
See, everything has become new!



***GATHERING**

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING
Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU)

GTG #456
Refrain x2

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*based on Creation Justice Ministries*)

Scripture tells us that “creation waits with eager longing
for the children of God to be revealed.”

Creation waits with eager longing:

for the devastation in our world to be seen with open eyes.

Creation waits with eager longing:

for the needs of the most vulnerable to be prioritized.

Creation waits with eager longing:

for us to move from doing what is easy to doing what is right.

Creation waits with eager longing:

for the removal of pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

Creation waits with eager longing:

for the children of God to fall in love with the earth.

Creation waits with eager longing:

in hope that creation itself will be set free.

Come, let us worship God.

***HYMN**

WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME
by Claire Cloninger

GTG #92
WAITING

CHILDREN OF GOD

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

Adults: May God be with you there.

Kids: May God be with you here.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, in the midst of leaded water
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, in the midst of mountains of waste
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, in the midst of rising seas
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, forgive us and make us agents of healing for the good of your
creation, **through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.** [*Silent Confession*]

***RESPONSE**

CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN

GTG #557

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Roberts)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

...that all creation may declare God's glory.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*Isaiah 52:7*)

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

~ ***LISTENING TO THE WORD*** ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ROMANS 8:18-27

NRSV

Page 148 of the New Testament in your Pew Bibles

SECOND READING

REVELATION 21-22

THE PEACE TABLE

Page 244 of the New Testament in your Pew Bibles

This is the good news, shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge
of the glory of God. **We hold this treasure in jars of clay.**

HYMN MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT GTG #100
by Rory Cooney STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

SERMON RESTORE CREATION

~ *RESPONDING TO THE WORD* ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*excerpts from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. God is faithful still. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***ALLELUIA** HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH! GTG #591

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ *GOING FORTH* ~

***HYMN** SOON AND VERY SOON GTG #384
by Andrae Crouch

***BENEDICTION**

How are we to proclaim unless we are sent:

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!

POSTLUDE